

2005-07 Policy and Program Recommendations of Governor's Council on Substance Abuse

Revenue Enhancement Proposal

This proposal was prepared at the request of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse and does not necessarily represent the official position of the Governor's Office, the state agencies represented on the Council or the agency or organization that prepared this proposal.

Program: Washington State College Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention

Recommendation Summary:

(Summary description of purpose of proposed enhancement)

Increased funding to the Washington State College Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention (College Coalition) to enhance and improve alcohol and other drug prevention services. Funding enhancements would support increased efforts to reduce high-risk college drinking and its negative impact on (a) the health and success of Washington State college students and (b) the health and safety of our campus communities. The proposed enhancements will enable the College Coalition to provide the state's colleges and universities with the training and technical assistance needed to increase their systematic approach to decrease problem behaviors among this high-risk population and to improve relationships through campus-community coalitions.

Fiscal Detail *(Provide for each year and for the biennium total operating expenditures, staffing (FTEs) and revenue sources (if known)).*

| | FY 2006 | FY 2007 | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Operating Expenditures | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$2,000,00 |
| Staffing (FTEs) | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Revenue Detail (if known)

Funding sources General Fund - State

Description of existing program *(Brief description of existing activities as they function and any anticipated changes at the current budgeted level)*

The mission of the College Coalition is to provide intentional support, professional development, and technical assistance for developing and continuing:

- Substance abuse prevention efforts,
- Cultures and environments that foster a continuum of healthy choices, and
- Strategic direction for all college and university communities in Washington State.

Meetings of the College Coalition occur on different campuses a minimum of four times per year throughout the state and provide opportunities for professional development, training and technical assistance, networking and participation in statewide prevention conferences. The College Coalition also coordinates the Washington Statewide Initiative, a collaborative effort with state partners to change aspects of the campus and community environments that contribute to high-risk drinking and other drug use. As part of the Washington Statewide Initiative, the College Coalition is currently coordinating the Washington Statewide Assessment (WASTA). Part 1 involves an assessment of college student alcohol and other drug use and other health behaviors, and Part 2 involves an assessment of institution- and community-level prevention practices. WASTA data will be reported in fall 2004.

Justification and Impact Statement *(Include reason for the proposed enhancement, impact on clients and services, impact on other units of government, other alternatives explored, future biennia budget impacts, one-time versus ongoing expenditures and costs, and effect of non-funding.*

- **Reason for proposed enhancement**
College student drinking is a chronic problem, which has not been eliminated through the sustained efforts of individual campuses. Data that documents the status of college student drinking in Washington State is currently being collected through the WASTA. The College Coalition's ability to translate these important findings into a strategic plan for technical assistance and training depends on future funding. It will not be possible to improve best practices in college programs needed to address the issues raised in the WASTA without appropriate follow-up technical assistance and training. Additional funding to College Coalition member institutions will result in the implementation of research-based strategies to address patterns of student alcohol use as determined by the WASTA. 8 member institutions would receive funding to implement best practice programs directed at addressing problem alcohol and drug behaviors identified in through the WASTA. Funding would also be provided to coordinate state-level training, technical assistance, and administrative support to implement the WASTA strategic plan.
- **Impact on clients and services**
Excessive alcohol use and related problems and consequences represent a significant threat to the health and well being of the approximately 20 percent of college students nationwide who choose to drink and are directly affected, and virtually all college students, who are affected indirectly, whether or not

they choose to drink. Statistics for students between the ages of 18 and 24 include:

- 1,400 die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes (Hingson et al., 2002).
- 500,000 are unintentionally injured under the influence of alcohol (Hingson et al., 2002).
- More than 600,000 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking (Hingson et al., 2002).
- More than 70,000 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape (Hingson et al., 2002).
- 400,000 had unprotected sex and more than 100,000 report having been too intoxicated to know if they consented to having sex (Hingson et al., 2002).
- About 25 percent report academic consequences of their drinking, including missing class, falling behind, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall (Engs et al., 1996; Presley et al., 1996a, 1996b; Wechsler et al., 2002).
- 2.1 million drove under the influence of alcohol last year (Hingson et al., 2002).
- About 11 percent report that they have damaged property while under the influence of alcohol (Wechsler et al., 1995).
- 31 percent met criteria for a diagnosis of alcohol abuse and 6 percent for a diagnosis of alcohol dependence in the past 12 months, according to questionnaire-based self-reports about their drinking (Knight et al., 2002).

- **Impact on other units of government**

A stronger College Coalition will increase prevention services and reduce the need for law enforcement time spent dealing with alcohol, noise, violence and vandalism complaints. Savings in health costs would also be realized due to improved prevention efforts. Further, campus-community coalitions improve multi-jurisdictional enforcement as the Washington State Patrol, the Liquor Control Board and law enforcement agents from communities join efforts to curb college student substance abuse. Available resources at the campus and community levels are currently underutilized. Finally, communities in Washington State that are the recipients of the state's "underage drinking reduction grants" (RUaD) would benefit from a dialogue about state prevention services current practices in order to improve sharing of resources, technologies and strategies.

- **Other alternatives explored**

For the past 19 years, member institutions have provided staff to coordinate this effort in addition to their normal duties. Recent higher education budget cutbacks have resulted in a diminished capacity to provide staff for non-essential services and to cover travel costs for members to attend meetings and trainings. While there is institutional support for the College Coalition's

efforts, it is challenging to sustain the desired level of activity and progress in meeting goals without consistent team leadership.

- **Future biennia budget impacts**
Expenditures should be offset savings associated with reductions in problem behaviors.
- **One time versus ongoing expenditures**
With the benefits gained through preventing problem drinking at Washington's public and private institutions of higher education, ongoing funding for this program is sought. Ongoing funding addresses the particular challenges of the college student population, which is continually changing, as new students enter college each year.
- **Effect of non-funding**
The College Coalition has developed a long-range strategic plan, and non-funding would result in delay or failure of full implementation of the plan. This is a crucial stage in the development of the College Coalition, with data from the WASTA in the process of being gathered. Without sufficient funding, the opportunity to make full use of the data at the campus, community and state levels could be lost, including developing a plan for follow-up technical assistance and training to assist campuses in implementing best practices to address the issues raised through the WASTA.

Proposed Implementation Plan

The proposed implementation plan includes:

- Conduct ongoing assessment of college student use of alcohol –the Washington State Assessment (WASTA)
- Use the WASTA data to train campus-community coalitions in best practice prevention programs, with an emphasis on environmental strategies and outcome-based efforts specific to the WASTA results for their campus & community.
- Fund implementation of best practices programs specific to the needs of each campus-community coalition
- Disseminate WASTA results internal to the College Coalition to build capacity at the campus-community level
- Inform state-level planners of the scope of college student drinking and prevention practices
- Increase the public's awareness of the health and safety issues involved in college student drinking
- Increase membership of the Washington State College Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention

Performance Measures and anticipated outcomes

What are the expected outcomes from this proposal? Include specific detail for the outcome measures that will be used to assess the effectiveness of the enhanced services.

- Decrease frequency and quantity of college student drinking
- Decrease negative alcohol-related consequences
- Increase utilization of campuses in best practices
- Increase development of college-community coalitions
- Increase knowledge and awareness among state planners regarding the scope and impact of college student drinking
- Benefit the citizens of the state of Washington by ensuring safe and healthy environments for campuses and surrounding communities

| Proposal was prepared at the request of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse by: | | |
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